

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 and 18-19 are in this application and are presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following comments.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,914,988 issued June 22, 1999 to Hu et al. ("Hu"). Applicants respectfully maintain their disagreement as stated in Applicants' prior response of October 20, 2003, which is incorporated by reference herein.

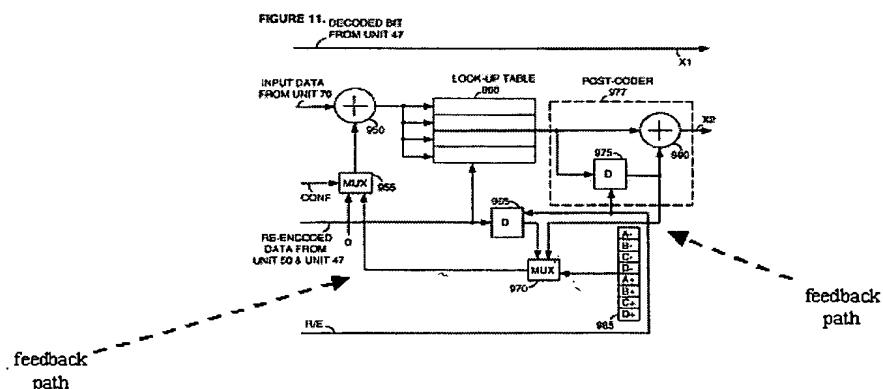
In addition, Applicants request the Examiner consider the following. As stated in Applicants' specification:

[d]emapper 60 of Figure 11 advantageously avoids such catastrophic error propagation by employing a feed-forward technique involving the feed-forward of prior state or decoded outputs rather than the feedback of intermediate state or decoded data.

Applicants' specification, p. 20, ln. 40 to p. 21, ln. 3;
emphasis added.

As such, each of Applicants' independent claims require "feedforward processing" or a "feed-forward processor" (e.g., see Applicants' claims, 1, 5, 13 and 18).

In contrast, consider FIG. 11 of *Hu*, reproduced below. Applicants have added two dashed-line arrows to indicate to the Examiner the feedback arrangement of Hu.



In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 5, 13 and 18 are patentable over *Hu*. Consequently, the rejection of dependent claims 2-4, 6-12, 14-16 and 19 has also been removed.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney in order to overcome any additional objections that the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-0832 therefor.

Respectfully submitted
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